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Local roads to receive more funding for repairs

LANSING—Local road projects around the state will receive \$44 million from the state of Michigan and more than \$279 million in federal transportation funds, said state Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt.

The Local Roads Match Program will leverage federal funds to accelerate as many as 170 local road projects and create up to 7,100 jobs in the next two years. This includes \$444,227 for projects in the 33rd Senate District.

“Repairing our roads is a matter of public safety,” said Cropsey. “With this state and federal money, the roads will be safer to drive on as well as more enjoyable. And these projects will also provide jobs in the area.”

Projects in the 33rd District that will receive funds are:

- Clinton County: East Main Street, Park Lake Road
- Ionia County: Cemetery Road, Grand River Avenue, Hawley Highway, Johnson Road, Riverside Drive, Stage Road
- Isabella County: S. Washington Street

The Local Roads Match Program funds physical construction and construction engineering of local road projects. Required non-construction items, such as preliminary engineering, right-of-way purchases and other environmental studies, are not funded through the program.

Priority for the grants was given to the following:

- Projects designated as high priority projects ready to be constructed in 2006 or 2007.
- Local federal aid projects that can be advanced to construction in 2006.
- Local federal aid projects that are scheduled for construction in 2008, but can be advanced to 2007.

To ensure equitable distribution of funds, legislative oversight requires the Michigan Department of Transportation to make annual reports and a report when \$40 million has been expended by the program on the status of current and pending projects.

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